

ORIGINAL
STORY

REKI KAWAHARA

ART

NAOKI KOSHIMIZU

CHARACTER DESIGN ■ SHIMEJI



1 THE ISOLATOR

REALIZATION OF ABSOLUTE SOLITUDE



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OR MAYBE
SOMETHING
DEEP
INSIDE ME
SUMMONED
IT.

MAYBE
IT WAS
SHEER
COINCIDENCE.



BUT THAT
BLACK ORB
MISUNDER-
STOOD MY
WISH.



I
DON'T
KNOW
FOR
SURE.



...FOR
THAT
PERFECT
THING—

ULTIMATE,
ABSOLUTE
SOLITUDE...

I'VE BEEN
SEARCH-
ING EVER
SINCE
THAT DAY...





Sect. 001
MINORU UTSUGI





I RUN
TEN
KILO-
METERS
EVERY
DAY.

I'VE MADE
A HABIT
OF RUNNING
EVERY
MORNING
FOR FIVE
YEARS NOW.

MY
NAME IS
MINORU
UTSUGI.



MY BMI IS
ALREADY
WELL
BELOW
AVERAGE.



IT'S NOT
LIKE I'M
TRYING
TO LOSE
WEIGHT OR
ANYTHING.



THE
REASON
I KEEP
RUNNING
IS SIMPLE
—

...I'M
NOT EVEN
SURE IF
I PARTIC-
ULARLY
LIKE
RUNNING.

IN
FACT
...

I'M NOT
ON THE
TRACK
TEAM
EITHER.



I
WANT TO
FORGET.



THAT
FEELING
IS THE
REASON
I RUN.



WHEN I'M
RUNNING, I
CAN FOCUS ON
MY BREATHING
AND PULSE,
AND SILENCE
THE UNWANTED
MEMORIES IN
MY HEAD.



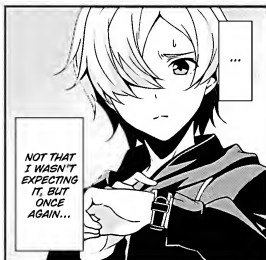
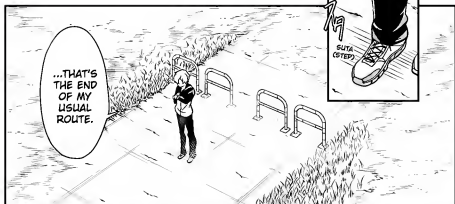
FOR
EXAM-
PLE...

...WHEN A
TEACHER
CALLS YOU
OUT AND
SCOLDS YOU
FOR A
COMPLETELY
ABSURD
REASON,
AND YOU'RE
UNABLE TO
STOP YOURSELF
FROM—



I'M SURE
EVERYONE
HAS AT LEAST
ONE OR TWO
MEMORIES
THEY DON'T
WANT TO
REMEMBER,
RIGHT?





BUT IN
THESE
PAST THREE
MONTHS, MY
TIME HAS
GOTTEN
ALMOST
THREE
MINUTES
SHORTER...

USUALLY, IT
VARIES A
LITTLE
EVERY DAY,
GRADUALLY
IMPROVING
OVER THE
COURSE OF
SEVERAL
MONTHS...

IT
SHOULDN'T
BE THAT
EASY TO
IMPROVE
MY
RUNNING
TIME
BY SO
MUCH.

...BE-
CAUSE
OF
YOU...

...I
WON-
DER?

COULD
THIS
BE...

GU
(PRESS)

AH!

WAIT
UP!

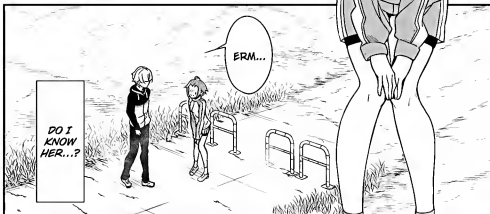
...WHAT
AM I
THINKING?
THAT'S
RIDIC-
ULOUS.
THERE'S
NO
WAY...

...I
SHOULD
GO
HOME.

A A A A A
TA TA TA
(THP)



UTSUGI-KUN...
RIGHT?



DO I
KNOW
HER...?

ERM...



BA
GUPPO



**TOMOMI
MINOWA!**

**I'M A
FIRST-
YEAR AT
YOSHIKI
HIGH,
CLASS
B!**

MINOWA!

**SO DOES
THAT
MEAN I'VE
TALKED
TO HER
BEFORE?**

**SHE GOES
TO MY HIGH
SCHOOL...
AND WE
WERE
CLASS-
MATES IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL?**

**I
WAS IN
YEAR 2,
CLASS 2
AT HACHI
MIDDLE.**

**O-
OH...**

AND!

**MINOWA-
SAN...
OH...I
FEEL LIKE
YOU USED
TO HAVE
LONGER
HAIR...**

**AH...
UM...**

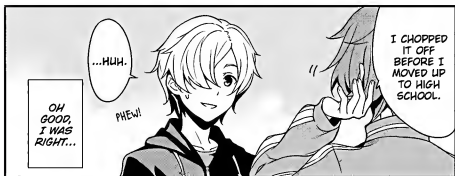
**MAYBE
MY DAILY
MEMORY-
RESET RUN
HAS BEEN
WORKING
BETTER
THAN I
THOUGHT...**

**I'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN
BAD AT
REMEM-
BERING
FACES...
BUT I
DIDN'T
THINK I
WAS THIS
BAD.**

**...
HMM
...?**



**THAT'S
RIGHT!**



...HUH.

OH
GOOD,
I WAS
RIGHT...

PHEW!

I CHOPPED
IT OFF
BEFORE I
MOVED UP
TO HIGH
SCHOOL.



MINOWA-
SAN,
DID YOU
COMPETE
IN THE
NATIONALS
IN OUR
LAST YEAR
OF MIDDLE
SCHOOL
...?

AH!

OH!



OH, SO
THAT'S
WHY...

LONG
HAIR ISN'T
ALLOWED
FOR NEW
MEMBERS
ON OUR
TRACK
TEAM.

IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
IT WAS
OKAY AS
LONG AS
YOU PUT
IT UP...



THAT
TOOK
YOU
LONG
ENOUGH
!!



I THINK
THAT'S
GREAT! IT'S
NOT EASY TO
BE TENTH IN
THE WHOLE
COUNTRY.

S-
STILL!

AND WHILE
I DID GO TO
NATIONALS,
I ONLY
GOT TENTH
PLACE...

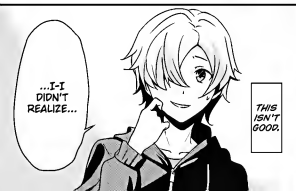
I GUESS
IT'S HARD TO
REMEMBER
ANOTHER'S
CLUB
ACTIVITY.

BUT
YES.



...BUT I
COULDN'T
CATCH UP
TO YOU
AT ALL
UNTIL YOU
STOPPED
HERE!

I SAW
YOU
AT THE
BRIDGE
AND
TOOK
OFF
AFTER
YOU...



...I-I
DIDN'T
REALIZE...

THIS
ISN'T
GOOD.



HUH?

...YOU
SAY THAT,
UTSUGI-
KUN,
BUT I
COULDN'T
EVEN COME
CLOSE TO
CATCHING
UP WITH
YOU.



...UM,
I'VE RUN
ABOUT 10K A
DAY FOR
THE PAST
FIVE
YEARS...

THAT'S
CRAZY
...
TO
THINK
I'M AS
FAST AS A
RUNNER
WHO
WENT TO
NATIONALS
...

HOW
FAR?

SINCE
WHEN?

DO YOU
RUN
HERE
EVERY
DAY?



THERE
AREN'T
THAT MANY
PEOPLE WHO
TRAIN EVERY
MORNING LIKE
THAT, EVEN
ON OUR
TEAM!

WOW!

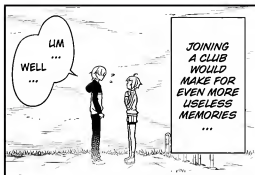
WHAAAT?
THAT'S
AMAZING!!



....!
I CAN'T
EXACTLY
JUST GO
ALONG
WITH
THIS...

YOU'D
BE
GREAT!

YOU'RE SO
FAST, YOU
SHOULD
JUST JOIN
THE TRACK
TEAM!





HE'S
NOT
SLOWING
DOWN...?

ザッパ
グシッパ



HE
DOESN'T
SEE US
BECAUSE
OF THE
FOG!?

OH
NO...

AH!





HEY !!

HUH?

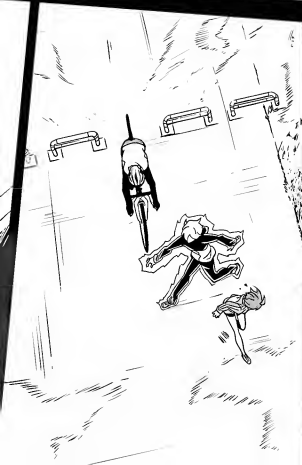
BA GASHO!!

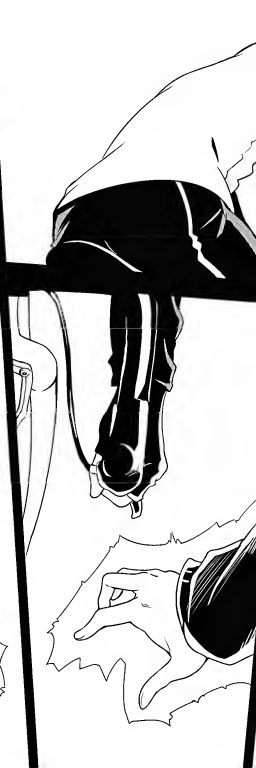
KI

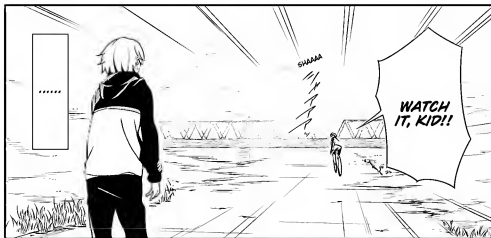
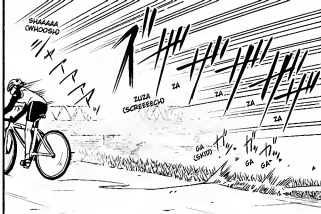
KI

IT'S
GOING
TO HIT
ME—











THE IMPACT
WAS ENOUGH
TO CHANGE
THE BIKE'S
COURSE...
I SHOULD AT
LEAST HAVE
A BRUISE OR
SOMETHING.

BUT IT
DOESN'T
FEEL
LIKE IT
AT ALL...

I DIDN'T
EVEN FEEL
A THING
WHEN IT
HIT ME...

UTSU-
GI-
KUN!

ARE
YOU
OKAY
!?

U...
UTSUGI-
KUN!



I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO TONE DOWN MY FACIAL EXPRESSIONS, OKAY?

WHA ...

SO WHAT ...?



S—
SORRY, MI-NOWA-SAN.

YOU WERE JUST MAKING THIS CRAZY FACE...



I DIDN'T GET HURT AT ALL.

YEAH ...

BUT IT SEEMS OKAY.



PHEW!

THAT'S GOOD ...

.....



AH...

MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARE YOU HURT ...?

DIDN'T THE BIKE HIT YOU JUST NOW?





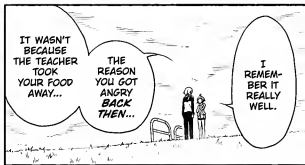
.....!

BACK IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
...

YOU ONCE
YELLED AT A
TEACHER
IN CLASS,
REMEMBER?



IT WAS
BECAUSE
HE SPOKE
POORLY OF
YOUR SISTER
WHO MADE
IT, RIGHT?



IT WASN'T
BECAUSE
THE TEACHER
TOOK
YOUR FOOD
AWAY...

THE
REASON
YOU GOT
ANGRY
BACK
THEN...

I
REMEM-
BER IT
REALLY
WELL.



GU
GU GU
GU



I WANTED
TO TALK
BACK
TO THE
TEACHER,
BUT I
WAS TOO
SCARED.



I WAS
REALLY
MAD
TOO...



..."UTSUGI-KUN'S GOT SOME COURAGE..."

THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT TO MYSELF...



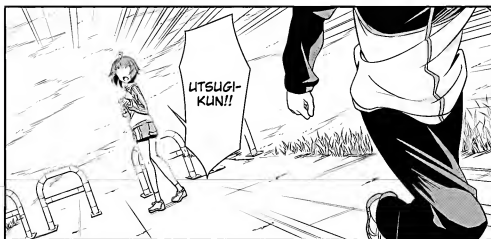
"AND HE'S A NICE PERSON..."



...UTSUGI-KUN?



AH!



I JUST
WANT TO
HAVE
SOLITUDE.

I...

I DIDN'T
THINK
ANYONE WHO
WAS THERE
AT THE TIME
WOULD
REMEMBER
IT...

I WANT TO
CURL UP
FOREVER IN A
BLANK WORLD
LIKE THAT...

IN A WORLD
WHERE
NOBODY WILL
REMEMBER
ME...

...AND I DON'T
HAVE TO
REMEMBER
ANYONE—



THAT
BLACK ORB
MISUNDER-
STOOD MY
WISH.



THE BLACK
ORB THAT
SANK INTO
MY CHEST
THAT DAY...



MY
RUNNING
TIME AND
CARDIO-
PULMONARY
FUNCTIONS
IMPROVED
...



IN
REALITY, IT
HAD BEEN
CHANGING
MY BODY
EVER
SINCE ITS
ARRIVAL.



MY
HEARING
BECAME
SHARP-
ER...

AND...



...THAT
MYSTE-
RIOUS
PHENOME-
NON...





...HOW ALL
OF THOSE
CHANGES
WERE GOING
TO AFFECT
MY FATE IN
A BIG WAY.

AT THE
TIME, I
DIDN'T
REALIZE
IT...



DD.

THIS
IS THE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD WHERE
"BITER" WAS
DETECTED,
YES?

YEAH.

THIS
SHOULD
BE IT,
YUMIKO.



ALL
RIGHT.
I'M
GOING
IN.

ooo
(m4000)



JUST
SURRENDER
YOURSELF
QUIETLY...



I'LL
EXTERMI-
NATE THE
"RUBY
EYE."



...
"BITER."

*HOW
DELI-
CIOUS...*



**I WANT
MORE...**

3U
03040 3U 3U 3U
7"7"7"7"...

MORE...

**I WANT
TO BITE
MORE...**



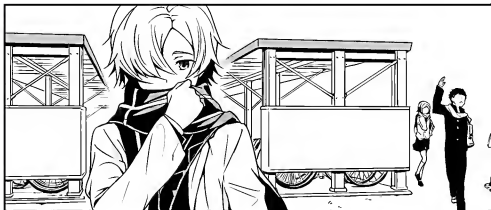
THE ISOLATOR
realization of
absolute solitude

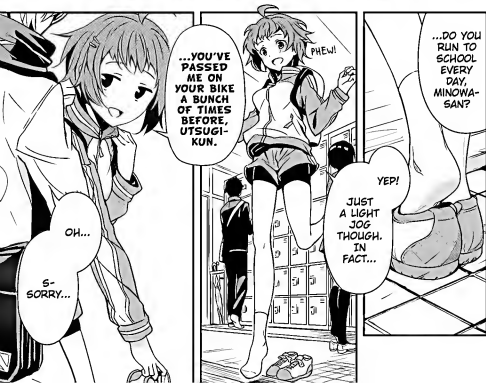


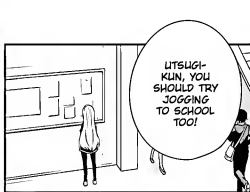




Sect. 002
ABNORMAL









GIVE
ME A
BREAK.



...RUN TO
SCHOOL
TOGETHER
EVERY
MORNING?



I WISH SHE
HADN'T
SPOKEN TO
A NOBODY
LIKE ME IN
FRONT OF
EVERYONE.



SHE'S THE
STAR OF
THE TRACK
TEAM—
SHE'S EVEN
BEEN TO
NATIONALS...



WHY
DID SHE
EVEN
TALK TO
ME AT
ALL?



OR IF THAT'S
TOO MUCH...
JUST ERASE
THE MEMORY
OF MINOWA-
SAN AND ME
TALKING FROM
EVERYONE IN
THE SCHOOL.

PLEASE,
GOD, JUST
REWIND THE
CLOCK FIVE
MINUTES...





SO THIS
SORT OF
THING
REALLY
DOES
HAPPEN...

OH...



Come to the back
of the dojo.

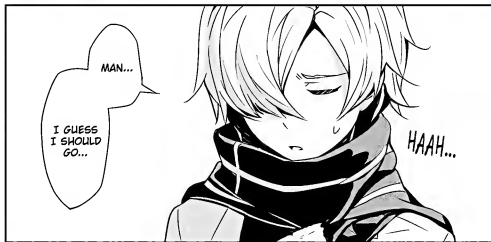


OR
IGNORE
THEM
AND GO
HOME?



SHOULD
I FOLLOW
THE
INSTRUC-
TIONS ON
THE
PAPER?

WHAT CAN
I DO TO
PRESERVE
THE PEACE
OF MY
SCHOOL
LIFE...?



MAN...

I GUESS
I SHOULD
GO...

HAHH...



IF I CAN
CONVINCE
THEM THAT
I HAVE NO
INTENTIONS
WHATSOEVER
TOWARD
MINOWA-
SAN...

IT'S
PROBABLY
SOME THIRD
PARTY WHO
HAS A
PROBLEM
WITH US
TALKING.



THIS MUST
BE RELATED
TO MY
CONVERSA-
TION WITH
MINOWA-
SAN...



HOPEFULLY
I CAN GET
THEM TO
WRITE THIS
OFF AS AN
IRREGULAR
ONETIME
EVENT.





WAIT ...
AREN'T YOU THE
ONE WHO
TOLD ME
TO CALL
HIM
OUT?



OH, HE
CAME.

YOU
OWE ME
FRIED
CHICKEN
NOW.

SERIOUSLY?
YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO
COME, PAL.



SORRY.

I KNOW
THIS IS
SUDDEN.

UH...

YOU'RE
LITSUGI-
KUN?

IT'S
FINE...



...BUT ARE
YOU GOING
AFTER
OUR LITTLE
MINOWA-
CHAN?

THIS IS
KIND OF A
PERSONAL
QUESTION...

"OUR"?
SO THEY
MUST BE
MEMBERS
OF THE
TRACK
TEAM...

...NO, I'M
NOT REALLY
"GOING AFTER"
HER OR
ANYTHING.

I DIDN'T THINK
A TWO- OR
THREE-MINUTE
CONVERSATION
IN THE
MORNING
WOULD BE
VIEWED AS
"GOING
AFTER" HER.

I KNEW
THIS WAS
RELATED TO
MINOWA-
SAN, BUT...

WE WERE
CLASSMATES
IN MIDDLE
SCHOOL,
SO WE
WERE JUST
TALKING A
LITTLE.

I REALLY
HAVE NO
DESIRE TO
GET INVOLVED
WITH MINOWA-
SAN, SO...

UM...

UM...
SHE
IS AN
ACQUAIN-
TANCE,
SO I'D
SAY
"HI"...

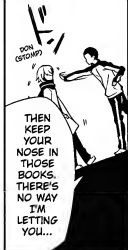
BUT...

HMM...
BUT WHAT
ARE YOU
GONNA DO
IF MINOWA-
CHAN TALKS
TO YOU
AGAIN?

IT'S NOT
THAT I...
NEVER TALK
TO THEM. IF
SOMEBODY
TALKS TO
ME, I'LL AT
LEAST
ANSWER
THEM.

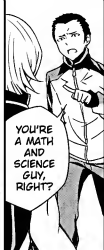
WHY
JUST
MINOWA-
CHAN,
HUH?

BUT
UTSUGI-
KUN,
SEEMS TO
ME YOU
DON'T
NORMALLY
TALK TO
GIRLS AT
ALL, DO
YOU?



DON
(STOMP)

THEN
KEEP
YOUR
NOSE
IN
THOSE
BOOKS.
THERE'S
NO WAY
I'M
LETTING
YOU...



YOU'RE
A MATH
AND
SCIENCE
GUY,
RIGHT?



CUT
THE
SHIT
AL-
READY!

I'M
SICK
OF
THIS
CRAP!



GUMI
(CLOING)

...MESS
WITH
ONE
OF OUR
GIRLS!



GU
(GRIT)

.....!!



!! DO SA
CHUUNDO
KX!!

GAH
...!



Y...
YOU...





SORRY,
UTSUGI-
KUN, BUT
WE'RE
JUST
TEACHING
YOU THE
WAYS
OF THE
WORLD.



DON'T
GET
COCKY...!
NEXT TIME,
YOU
WON'T GET
OFF SO
EASILY.



WHAT
IF...AT
THAT
MOMENT
...



IF I
HADN'T
BEEN
ABLE
TO PULL
AWAY...



JUST LIKE
THE TIME
BEFORE...



...IT
HAPPENED
AGAIN.



...WOULD
THAT GUY
WITH THE
SHAVED
HEAD HAVE
BROKEN
THE BONES
IN HIS
HAND?

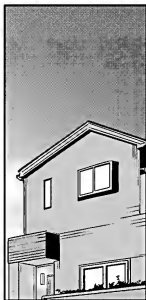


...WHAT
DID
THAT
GUY
HIT?

IF NOT
ME,
THEN...



WHAT
WAS
THAT
JUST
NOW?



THERE'S
SOME-
THING...

...
INSIDE
ME.

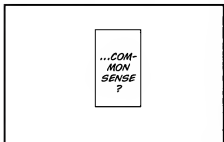






SOMETHING
ABNORMAL
MUST BE
GOING
ON HERE,
RIGHT...?

COMMON
SENSE
CAN'T
EXPLAIN
THIS.



...COM-
MON
SENSE
?



HA
HA!



...AND
WHEN
THAT
UPPER-
CLASS-
MAN-
TRIED
TO
PUNCH
ME...

WHEN
THAT
BIKE
HANDLE
HIT
ME...

...WHAT
HAPPENED
MUST HAVE
BEEN THE
DOING OF "THAT
THING" THAT
ENTERED MY
BODY THREE
MONTHS
AGO.



IS NOT
HAVING ANY
FRIENDS TO
HANG OUT
WITH ON MY
DAYS OFF
NORMAL?
ABNORMAL?

IS RUNNING
TOK EVERY
MORNING
NORMAL?
ABNORMAL?

...WHAT IS
"NORMAL,"
ANYWAY?

HOW ABOUT
HAVING
SOMEONE
COME
INTO YOUR
HOUSE AND
MURDER
YOUR
WHOLE
FAMILY?

...IS THAT
NORMAL?
ABNOR-
MAL?

...THE
MURDERER
STILL
HASN'T
BEEN
CAUGHT...

AND IF,
AFTER
EIGHT
YEARS...

...ALL
OF THEM
WERE
KILLED
EXCEPT
FOR ME.

BOTH MY
PARENTS...
AND MY
OLDER
SISTER,
WHO HID
ME AWAY...

EIGHT
YEARS
AGO...
...
SOME-
ONE
BROKE
INTO
MY
HOUSE.



...THE PERSON WHO TOOK ME IN, TWENTY-THREE YEARS OLD AND HAVING JUST STARTED HER FIRST JOB AFTER COLLEGE...

I JUST FINISHED GETTING EVERYTHING PREPPED!

AND WHEN I BECAME AN ORPHAN ...

TA-DAA!

NICE TIMING, MIL-KUN!

COME LIVE WITH ME.



...WAS NORIE-SAN.



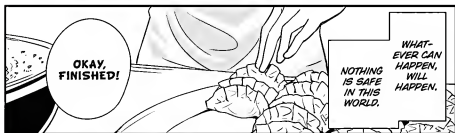
AT THE TIME, I HAD NO IDEA WHY SHE WOULD TAKE ME IN LIKE THAT, BUT...

I'M GOING TO GRILL THE DUMPLINGS, SO EVEN IF THE FILLING ISN'T PINCHED IN TIGHT, IT'LL BE FINE!

UH...

A RACE SOUNDS LIKE A BAD IDEA...

WE'RE GOING TO COMPETE TO SEE WHO CAN MAKE MORE, GOT IT, MIL-KUN?







THE SMELL
OF MEAT
AND BONES,
PACKED
ON JUST
RIGHT...



OHH...



THOSE
LEGS—
THE HARMONY
BETWEEN THE
CAREFREE
TIBIA AND
THE GRACEFUL
FIBULA...



HYAA
GORGIANO

I CAN
PICK OUT
THE ECHO
OF BONE
AMIDST
THE SOUND
OF SHOES
HITTING THE
ASPHALT...







THE ISOLATOR
realization of
absolute solitude





...TO TAKE
ME TO A
WORLD OF
SOLITUDE?

DID THAT
THING
DESCEND
FROM THE
SKY...

BAD
MEMORIES
KEEP
SEEPING
INTO THE
MARSH OF
MY MIND...

...TRYING
TO
CAPTURE
ME AND
DRAG ME
DOWN TO
DROWN.

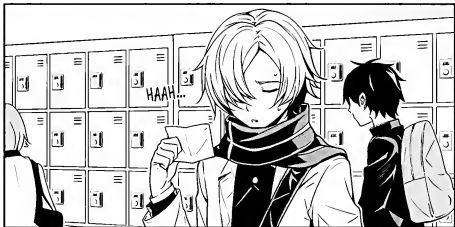
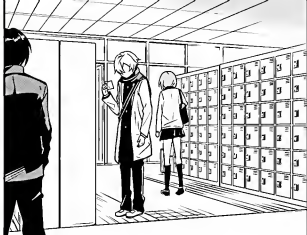
AT THE
HEART OF
THE SWAMP
IS THE
MEMORY
OF EIGHT
YEARS
AGO.

AN
ISOLATED
WORLD...

...OF
ABSOLUTE
SOLITUDE,
JUST FOR
ME.

I WANT TO
ESCAPE TO
A WORLD
WITHOUT
ANYONE
IN IT.







Sect. 003
THE BITER



UTSUGI-KUN...

TA
(THMP) TA
A/A



I
USUALLY
JUST GO
STRAIGHT
HOME
AFTER
SCHOOL
ENDS,
SO...



...I'M
SORRY.

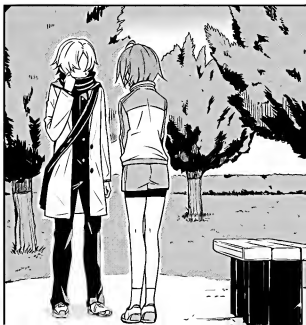
I KNOW
IT'S LATE
TO DRAG
YOU OUT
ALL THIS
WAY.

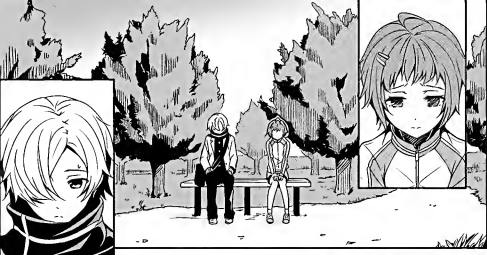


UHM...



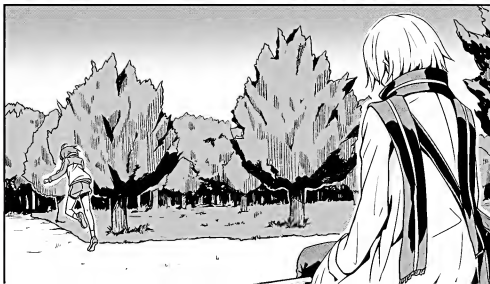
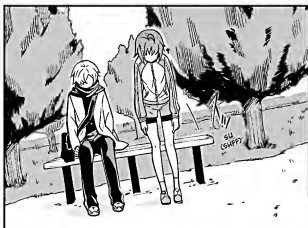
SHOULD
WE SIT?











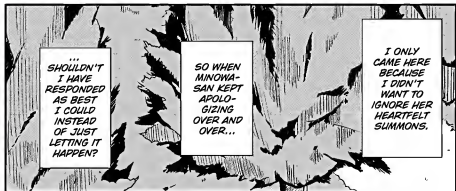
WHAT ON
EARTH AM
I DOING?



...
SHOULDN'T
I HAVE
RESPONDED
AS BEST
I COULD
INSTEAD
OF JUST
LETTING IT
HAPPEN?

SO WHEN
MINOWA-
SAN KEPT
APOLO-
GIZING
OVER AND
OVER...

I ONLY
CAME HERE
BECAUSE
I DIDN'T
WANT TO
IGNORE HER
HEARTFELT
SUMMONS.

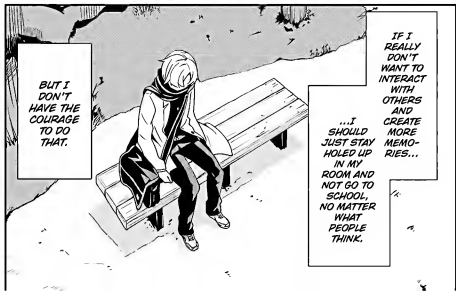


BUT I
DON'T
HAVE THE
COURAGE
TO DO
THAT.



IF I
REALLY
DON'T
WANT TO
INTERACT
WITH
OTHERS
AND
CREATE
MORE
MEMO-
RIES...

...I
SHOULD
JUST STAY
HOLED UP
IN MY
ROOM AND
NOT GO TO
SCHOOL,
NO MATTER
WHAT
PEOPLE
THINK.





BUT
STILL...

...I'M
SURE THE
PEOPLE
AROUND ME
AREN'T AS
CONCERNED
ABOUT ME
AS I THINK.

IN
THE
END...

...ABSOLUTE
SOLITUDE
IS JUST A
FANTASY.



MINOWA-
SAN TOO...
BEFORE
LONG, SHE'LL
HAVE
FORGOTTEN
OUR TALK
EARLIER
AND THAT
SHE CRIED.



STARTING
TOMORROW,
I'M GOING
BACK TO A
LIFE OF NOT
INTERACTING
WITH
ANYONE...



...THE
SAME
DIRECTION
MINOWA-
SAN RAN
OFF IN...!



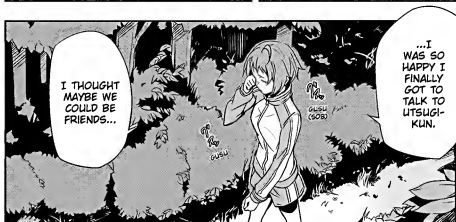
WHAT
WAS
THAT
...?

I CAUGHT
THE
SCENT OF
SOMETHING
BURNING...
SOMETHING
LIKE
IRON...OR
BEASTS...
THE
SMELL OF
VIOLENCE.



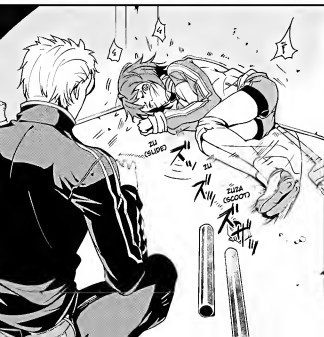
AND THAT
SMELL IS
COMING
FROM...



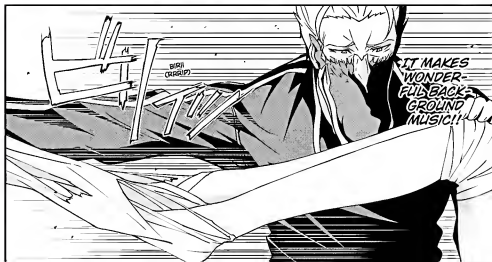














AHH...
I WANT TO
BITE INTO
HER RIGHT
NOW...! BUT
NOT YET...
I HAVE
TO CALM
DOWN.

THE BONES
BENEATH HER
FLESH WILL
SURELY BE OF
THE HIGHEST
QUALITY.

SUCH LOVELY
FEET, WITH
PERFECT
PLANTAR
ARCHES AND
ACHILLES
TENDONS...



HFF!
HFF!

IT'LL
RUIN THE
FUN IF
SHE DIES
RIGHT
AWAY...

I
HAVE TO
PREPARE
TO STANCH
THE
BLEEDING
FIRST.



IF YOU
MAKE A
SOUND,
I'LL KILL
YOU RIGHT
NOW.

NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT—
SOMEONE IS
APPROACHING
THE SHED.

KAGA
(RUSTLE)



THE
SOUND
OF A
DRY
TWIG
SNAP-
PING...



SU
(SWIFT)

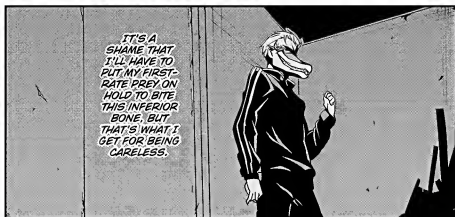


THE
POLICE...?
NO, I ONLY
HEAR ONE
PERSON.
A PARK
MAINTENANCE
WORKER...?

ZURU
(GULPING)



I THOUGHT
THIS SHED
HAD BEEN
ABANDONED
FOR YEARS...
MAYBE MY
DESIRE WAS
CLOUDING MY
JUDGMENT?

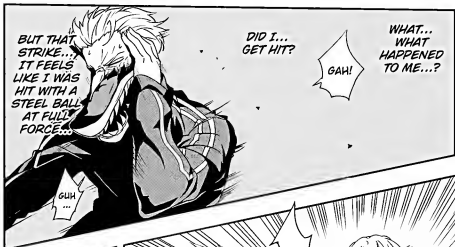




GABA
(GROWL)

THEY'RE
BEING
STOPPED BY
SOMETHING
THAT THEY
CAN'T BITE
THROUGH...!?

WHAT IS
THIS? MY
TEETH...
MY TEETH
ARE...



BUT THAT
STRIKE...
IT FEELS
LIKE I WAS
HIT WITH A
STEEL BALL
AT FULL
FORCE...

DID I...
GET HIT?

GAH!

WHAT...
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ME...?

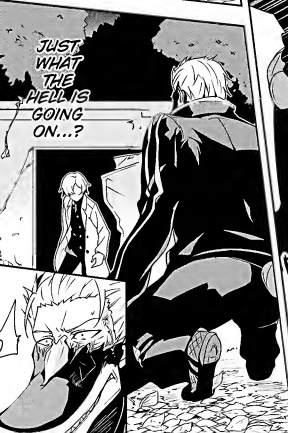
GUH
...



IT'S
NO
USE...

I HAVE
TO
DODGE
IT!





HE'S
FLOAT-
ING!?



...A
LAYER!!

I SEE...
SO THE
THING I
BIT INTO
WAS...

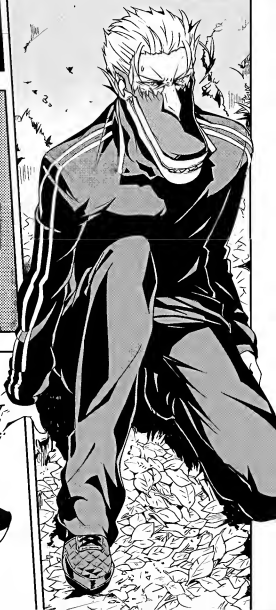
AN INVISIBLE
LAYER THAT'S
HARDER THAN
DIAMOND...
THAT EVEN
MY TEETH
COULDN'T
BREAK
THROUGH...

...
LIKE
ARMOR.

THIS
KID HAS
ABOUT
AN INCH-
THICK
LAYER
AROUND
HIS
BODY.

SO THIS
KID MUST
HAVE
ONE TOO...

THE
SAME
KIND OF
"EYE"
THAT
I HAVE!



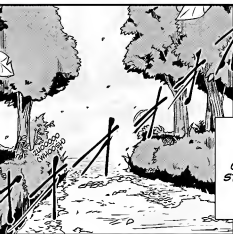




THE ISOLATOR
realization of
absolute solitude

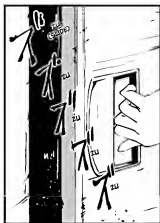


























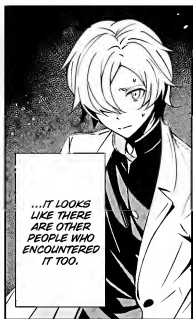
THAT
ORB.



THREE
MONTHS
AGO...



THAT MUST
BE THE
SOURCE
OF THIS
STRANGE
POWER
AND MY
ENHANCED
STRENGTH
AND
SENSES.



...IT LOOKS
LIKE THERE
ARE OTHER
PEOPLE WHO
ENCOUNTERED
IT TOO.



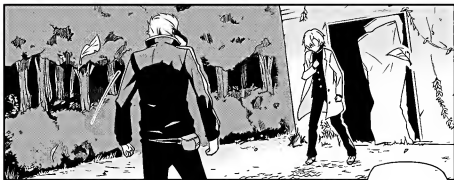
AND
...



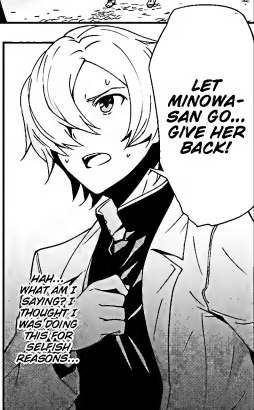
...EVEN
HUMAN
...?



BUT...
IS THIS
GUY...

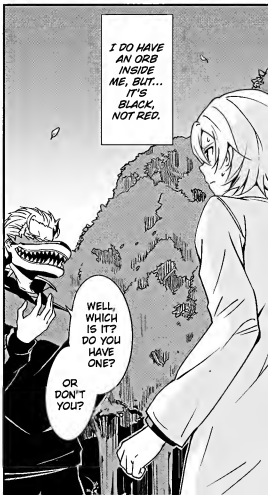


I ALWAYS
WONDERED...
SO THERE
REALLY ARE
OTHERS.



LET
MINOWA-
SAN GO...
GIVE HER
BACK!

HAAH...
WHAT AM I
[SAYING? I
THOUGHT I
WAS DOING
THIS FOR
SELFISH
REASONS...





INVISIBLE
ARMOR
THAT
SURROUNDS
YOUR
BODY...

YOU
GAVE ME
QUITE A
SHOCK
EARLIER.

WELL,
YOURS
SEEMS TO
HAVE
GIVEN YOU
QUITE A
PLEASANT
POWER.



BUT
I'M MORE
SURPRISED
THAT SOMEONE
BESIDES ME
POSSESSES
THE EYE.



BOY
STRANGLER

BOY



HOW
BOTHER-
SOME.



BUT
DON'T
FRET. I
WON'T
KILL YOU
RIGHT
AWAY.



NO
MATTER
HOW
STRONG
THE
ARMOR
...

...IF
IT ONLY
PROTECTS
YOUR
BODY, I'LL
FIND A
WAY.

WELL.

I'LL
BITE YOU
PROPERLY
THIS
TIME.



...WHILE
YOU WATCH,
IMMOBILIZED.

NTAA
(SMIRK)

I'LL TAKE
MY TIME
AND BITE
THAT GIRL
EVER SO
SLOWLY...



TO EAT,
OF
COURSE.



OH,
COME
ON.

WHEN
HUMANS
BITE INTO
SOMETHING,
THERE'S
ONLY ONE
REASON,
RIGHT?



B-
BITE...?
WHAT
DO
YOU...?



I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BITE PEOPLE. THAT'S WHY THE EYE CAME TO ME...

OF COURSE NOT.

THIS IS MY OWN DESIRE.



HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING ...?

DID THAT EYE... WARP YOUR BRAIN OR SOMETHING...?



IN FACT, I'VE BITTEN FOUR PEOPLE SO FAR.



NOW, THEN...



SHALL WE
HAVE A
TASTING?

I HAVE
TO HURRY
AND
GET THE
SHELL ON
AGAIN.
BUT
...

THIS GUY IS
SERIOUSLY
PLANNING
TO BITE
MINOWA-
SAN AND ME
TO DEATH.



...I STILL
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO FLIP
THE SWITCH...









GUA A A A H!!!

BACH
CELLARD



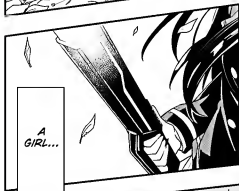
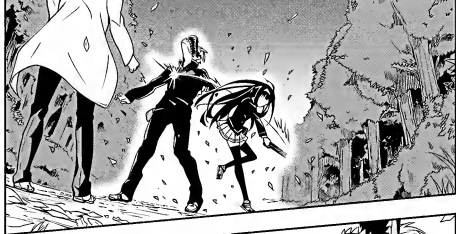




THE ISOLATOR
realization of
absolute solitude







A
GIRL...



WHAT
!?



WHERE
DID SHE
COME
FROM...?



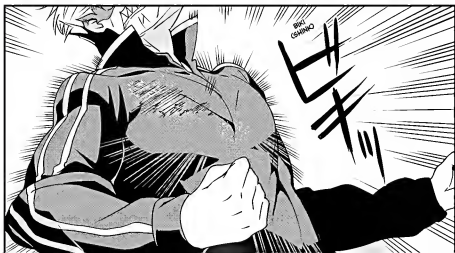
WHAT
THE...?



JUST
WHAT ON
EARTH IS
GOING ON
HERE?



Sect. 005
THE ACCELERATOR





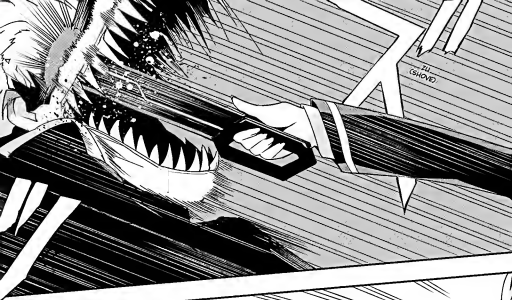


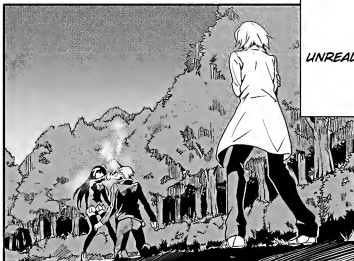












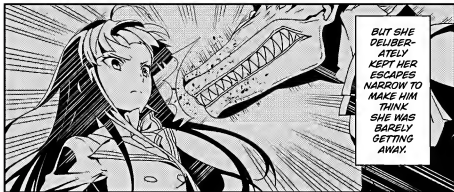
UNREAL...



SHE
COULD
HAVE
ESCAPED
WITH
ROOM TO
SPARE...



SHE
CLEARLY
SET
UP THIS
SITUATION
ON
PURPOSE.



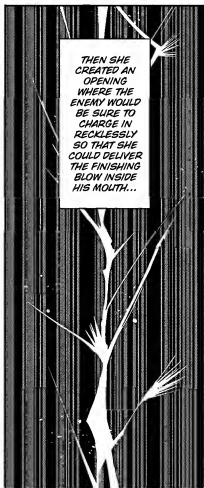
BUT SHE
DELIBER-
ATELY
KEPT HER
ESCAPES
NARROW TO
MAKE HIM
THINK
SHE WAS
BARELY
GETTING
AWAY.



JUST
WHO IS
THIS
GIRL...?



BA
CLEAP



THEN SHE
CREATED AN
OPENING
WHERE THE
ENEMY WOULD
BE SURE TO
CHARGE IN
RECKLESSLY
SO THAT SHE
COULD DELIVER
THE FINISHING
BLOW INSIDE
HIS MOUTH...



SHE'S
CLEARLY
USED TO
FIGHTING...
NOT AN
AMATEUR
LIKE ME
AT ALL.





**WHAT A
PERFOR-
MANCE
THAT
WAS...**



**I'LL
BITE
EVERY
LAST
ONE.**

**...I'LL
BITE
YOU...
DOWN
TO THE
BONE...**



**I WON'T
LET YOU
GET
AWAY...
I DON'T
KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE,
BUT...**



**BUT
SHE'S
NOT
RUN-
NING
...?**

**HER
WEAPON
IS GONE
NOW...**









DAMN YOU!!

GET OFF!

BUT
...

...HOW MUCH
OXYGEN IS
INSIDE THIS
SHELL?!

ALL
RIGHT...IT
DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE
BREATHING
THIS MUCH
WILL
DEACTIVATE
MY ABILITY.

FWOO...

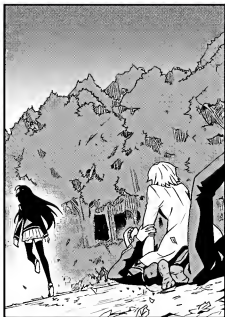
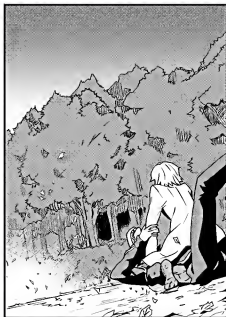
HAAH...



**CRAP...
PLEASE
HURRY
UP AND
RUN
AWAY...**

SO DOES
THAT MEAN
THERE'S
ABOUT 49
LITERS OF
AIR INSIDE
THE SHELL?
HOW MANY
BREATHS
BEFORE I
USE IT UP!?

THE SHELL
IS ABOUT AN
INCH AROUND
ME...AND THE
SURFACE AREA
OF MY BODY
IS SOMETHING
LIKE 17.5
SQUARE FEET.



**SHE
VANISHED...**





I
SEE...

SO SHE
HAS AN
ABILITY
TOO—

DIDN'T
HER STUN
BATON
BREAK...?



**OUT
OF THE
WAY!!**

**TELE-
PORTA-
TION!!**

アハハハ

**BA
(GRAB)**

**GASH
(GRAB)**

**G
R
A
A
H
!!!**











THE ISOLATOR
realization of
absolute solitude





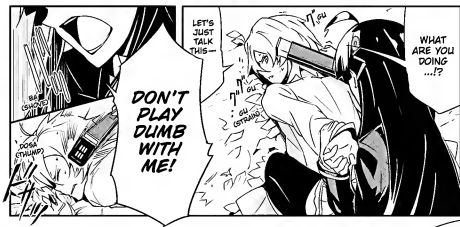


...!



PREPARE
YOURSELF.

YOU'RE
A
"RUBY"
TOO,
AREN'T
YOU?



LET'S
JUST
TALK
THIS—

DON'T
PLAY
DUMB
WITH
ME!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
...!?



I'LL BE
SURE TO
TAKE YOU
OUT
MYSELF!

BITER
ESCAPED, BUT
AS FOR YOU,
UNIDENTIFIED
RUBY...

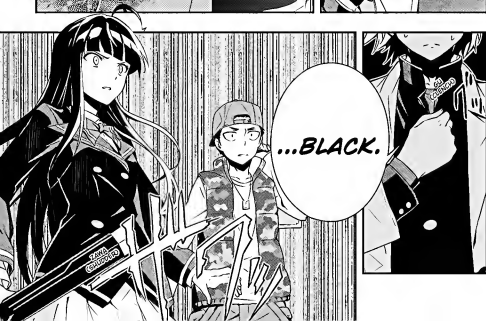
YOU AND
BITER HAD
A FALLING
OUT OVER
THE GIRL,
DID YOU?



Sect. 006
JET EYE





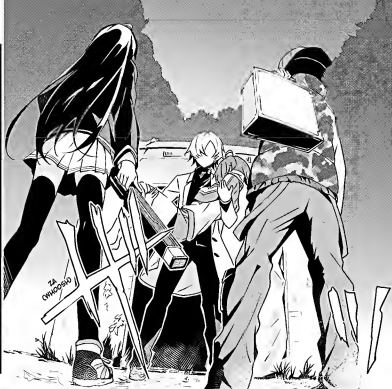




IS THE
COLOR...
IMPORTANT?
THE SHARK
MAN DID SAY
THAT HIS
WAS RED...







HUH ?





BESIDES,
SHE'S
SEEN THE
BITER'S
FACE.

HE
COULD GO
AFTER HER
AGAIN.



YOU
CAN'T!
SHE
NEEDS TO
GO TO A
HOSPITAL
RIGHT
AWAY.



DID
YOU
EVEN
THINK
OF
THAT?



"WE"
...?

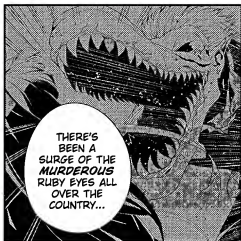
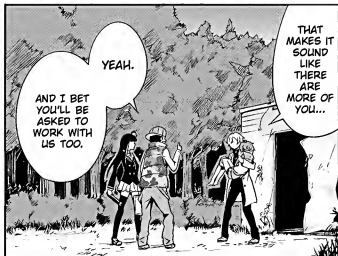
THAT
INCLUDES
PSYCHO-
LOGICAL
CARE
TOO.

WE
HAVE THE
KNOW-HOW
TO GET
HER BACK
TO HER OWN
LIFE ONCE
SHE'S BEEN
TREATED.

THIS ISN'T
OUR FIRST
CASE LIKE
THIS.



DON'T
WORRY,
WE'LL
TAKE
CARE
OF IT!





A JET
EYE.



...YOUR
POWER
WILL BE OF
GREAT USE
TO US.

SINCE YOU
WERE ABLE
TO FIGHT
AGAINST
THE BITER
UNHARMED
...





YOU HAVE A
DUTY TO GO
ON FIGHTING
UNTIL ALL THE
RUBIES ARE
WIPE OUT!



EVEN AS
WE SPEAK,
RUBIES ARE
TARGETING
INNOCENT
PEOPLE.



AND
THAT'S
WHY I'M
TELLING
YOU TO BE
ASHAMED
THAT YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW
AND TO
WORK
WITH US
TO WIPE
OUT THE
RUBIES!



"DUTY"
...?

I DIDN'T
KNOW
ABOUT
ANY OF
THIS.

THIS IS THE
FIRST I'VE
HEARD OF
"JETS" AND
"RUBIES."

IT'S
NOT
LIKE I
ACCEPTED
THAT
THING
BY CHOICE.



PEOPLE
WHO WANT
TO FIGHT
CAN GO
AHEAD AND
FIGHT.

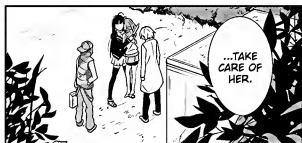


...IT
HAS
NOTH-
ING...

...TO
DO WITH
ME.



MINOWA-SAN WILL BE SAFEST IF I LEAVE HER WITH YOU NOW, RIGHT?



...TAKE CARE OF HER.



GOOD-BYE.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE EITHER OF YOU EVER AGAIN.



IF HE SEES THE RECORDS AT HQ, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO DISMISS HIS DUTY SO EASILY.

IF HE COULD SEE HOW COURAGEOUSLY SANAЕ FOUGHT ...



"FELLOW JET"? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. WE'RE TAKING HIM TO HQ—EVEN IF IT'S BY FORCE.



O-O! DON'T PULL A WEAPON ON A FELLOW JET!



**YOU'RE
WASTING
YOUR
TIME.**



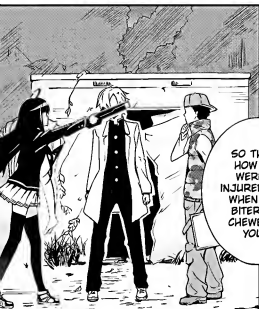
**IF I USE
MY ABILITY,
YOU WON'T
BE ABLE TO
HEAR ME, AND
I WON'T
HEAR YOU.**

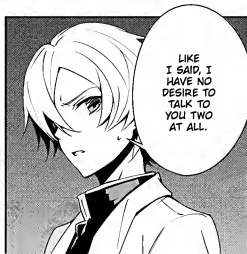
**I'LL
TELL YOU
ABOUT MY
POWERS.**

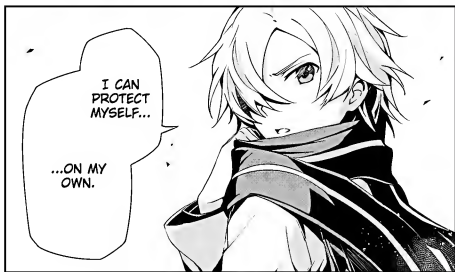


**NOT
ATTACKS,
NOT
SOUNDS,
AND MOST
LIKELY NOT
ELECTRICITY
EITHER.**

**I CAN
CREATE AN
INVISIBLE
SHELL
AROUND
MYSELF THAT
NOTHING CAN
PASS
THROUGH.**

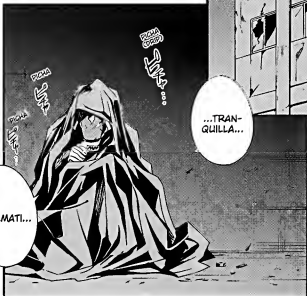








CALMATI...



...TRAN-
QUILLA...



ZUKU
CTHROW



TO THINK
THAT THEY
FORCED
ME TO
FLEE WITH
MY TAIL
BETWEEN
MY LEGS
WITHOUT
PUTTING A
SCRATCH
ON THEM...



THE
BOY
WITH
THE IN-
VISIBLE
BAR-
RIER,
THE
GIRL
WITH
TELE-
PORTA-
TION...

SO I
WASN'T
THE
ONLY
CHOSEN
ONE!



DAMN
IT!

GUSHA
CRUSHO



I GAINED NEW
INFORMATION
TODAY...
THERE ARE
OTHERS WITH
POWERS...
OTHERS WITH
THE EYE.

...NO,
THAT
ISN'T
HOW
IT IS.
I'M
NOT
RUNNING
AWAY.
I'M
JUST
PREPAR-
ING
FOR THE
HUNT.



BUT
BEFORE
THAT...

THAT
BOY...



THAT
MODIFIED
STUN
BATON...

IF SHE
HAS ACCESS
TO A THING
LIKE THAT...

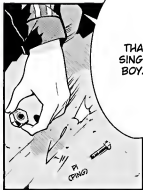
...SHE MUST
BE PART OF
SOME KIND
OF ORGANI-
ZATION.



ONCE MY
WOUNDS
HEAL,
I'LL
HUNT
THEM
DOWN.

NO
MATTER
HOW LONG
IT TAKES,
I'LL KEEP
KILLING
UNTIL
I ALONE
AM THE
CHOSEN
ONE.

IN ORDER
TO DO THAT,
I NEED TO
HEAL UP
AND GET
AWAY
FROM THIS
CITY FOR A
WHILE.



THAT
SINGLE
BOY...



THESE
TEETH
I'VE
BEEN
GIVEN...
TEETH
THAT CAN
BITE
THROUGH
ANY-
THING...

MY
PRIVILEGE
AS AN APEX
PREDATOR...





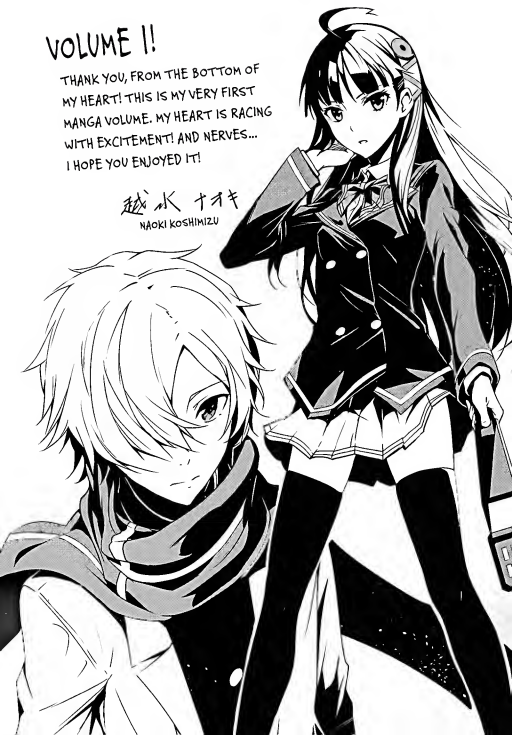
...I'LL BITE
RIGHT
THROUGH
THAT
INFURIATING
SHELL!

➤ TO BE CONTINUED...

VOLUME !!

THANK YOU, FROM THE BOTTOM OF
MY HEART! THIS IS MY VERY FIRST
MANGA VOLUME. MY HEART IS RACING
WITH EXCITEMENT! AND NERVES...
I HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT!

越水 十オキ
NAOKI KOSHIMIZU



THE ISOLATOR 1

ART: NAOKI KOSHIMIZU

ORIGINAL STORY: REKI KAWAHARA

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THE ISOLATOR Volume 1

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